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ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

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CUTTING COSTS ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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LISA MADIGAN
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

HOW TO SAVE ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



DRUG BUYING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Illinois Rx Buying Club

1-866-215-3462

TTY: 1-866-215-3479

www.IllinoisRxBuyingClub.com

Medicaid

1-800-252-8635

TTY: 1-800-447-6404

www.dpallinois.com/medical/medicaid.html

Medicare

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

TTY: 1-877-486-2048

www.medicare.gov

Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program

1-800-624-2459

TTY: 1-800-544-5304

www.revenue.state.il.us/CircuitBreaker/

SeniorCare

1-800-226-0768

TTY: 1-877-204-1012

www.seniorcareillinois.com

Drug Company Assistance Programs

Ask your doctor for more information.

The Illinois Department on Aging offers information on state assistance programs and provides a chart comparing state and federal assistance programs. Call 1-800-252-8966 (voice & TTY) or visit their Web site at www.state.il.us/aging.



YOUR POTENTIAL SAVINGS

97%

Amount you could save
per prescription
by price shopping†

77%

Amount you could save
per prescription
by purchasing
generic drugs‡

BUY GENERICS

Generic drugs often cost considerably less than their brand name counterparts. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you can purchase generic equivalents to your prescriptions.

BUY OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS

Ask your doctor if there is an over-the-counter drug equivalent to your prescription that could save you money.

PRICE SHOP

You can often find significant savings by comparing prices among different pharmacies in the same town. Once you have shopped around, try to fill all your prescriptions at the same pharmacy. That way, your pharmacist will know every medication that you take and can ensure that you avoid any dangerous drug interactions.

SENIOR CITIZEN AND PHARMACY DISCOUNTS

Your pharmacy may provide an unadvertised senior citizen discount. Often, you have to inquire about the discount in order to get it.

BUY IN BULK

Prescription drugs often cost less if you buy them in larger quantities. Ask your doctor about purchasing your medications in three to six month supplies, which can be cheaper than refilling prescriptions monthly.

ONLINE OR MAIL ORDER COMPANIES

If you decide to order your prescription online or through a mail order company, make sure the company is reputable and you receive the exact drug you were prescribed. Check with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (www.nabp.net) to determine whether a Web site is a licensed pharmacy in good standing.

†Sorensen, Alan T. An Empirical Model of Heterogeneous Consumer Search of Retail Prescription Drugs. National Bureau of Economic Research, October 2001.

‡The Cost of Prescription Drugs in Illinois: A Survey of Retail Drug Prices. The Office of Attorney General Lisa Madigan: August 2004.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Dear Illinois Consumer,

For all too many Illinoisans, paying for prescription drugs has become a serious challenge.

Sadly, rising prescription drug prices have made some medications prohibitively expensive to seniors taking several prescriptions and patients without health insurance. Even patients with insurance may pay more for prescriptions than the uninsured, who may price shop more carefully.*

With some careful planning, you could save a considerable amount of money on your prescriptions. If you have questions about your current health or prescription drug plans, or if you need help, please call my Health Care Helpline at 1-877-305-5145.



Lisa Madigan
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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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*Rettenmaier, Andre J. and Zijun Wang. "Who Pays Higher Prices for Prescription Drugs?" *National Policy Report No. 265*. National Center for Policy Analysis: November 2003.



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Health Care
Helpline

1-877-305-5145

TTY: 1-800-964-3013

CHICAGO

100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 814-3000
TTY: (312) 814-3374

SPRINGFIELD

500 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1090
TTY: (217) 785-2771

CARBONDALE

1001 East Main Street
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 529-6400
TTY: (618) 529-6403

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